

MILWAUKEE AODA/TANF SERVICES SYSTEM

OVERVIEW

The Milwaukee AODA/TANF Services System is a new way for people to access and utilize substance abuse treatment services.¹ The system was specifically designed to eliminate barriers to successful treatment identified by local providers, consumers, and advocates. The new system incorporates best practices in substance abuse treatment for women and their families, adding key service elements that are expected to significantly improve treatment outcomes and long term family wellbeing. The new system is funded by a grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Only TANF-eligible individuals will be able to receive treatment supported by this grant.²

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE MILWAUKEE AODA/TANF SERVICES SYSTEM

- A **standardized AODA pre-screening instrument** that will be used by a variety of agencies, e.g. W-2, child welfare, to identify people who may need substance abuse treatment.
- Six **Central Intake Units (CIU)** will conduct AODA screening, eligibility determination, and referral for treatment:

Impact
611 W. National Ave.
272-6199

Meta House
2266 N. Prospect 4th Floor
962-1200

Milwaukee Women's Center
611 N. Broadway, Suite #230
272-6199

M&S Clinical Services, Inc.
3660 N. Teutonia Ave.
444-3188

United Community Center
611 W. National
649-4380

Wisconsin Correctional Services
(in-custody services only)

- **Substance abuse treatment** provided by four primary women's treatment providers (Horizon House, Milwaukee Women's Center, Meta House, United Community Center) and over twenty-five community treatment providers.

¹ TANF is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the federal welfare program that replaced AFDC.

² A person is TANF-eligible if she or he is a custodial parent of minor children with a household income less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

- **Support services** including purchased services as well as organizing informal family and neighborhood support systems. Individual programs and Wraparound Milwaukee will be managing the support services for the program's consumers. The Wraparound model provides the philosophy for the coordination and integration of services.
- **Coordination of benefits** so that available funding sources (TANF, health insurance, Medical Assistance, Milwaukee County voucher program) are used most effectively to support each eligible person's treatment. Milwaukee County is responsible for benefits coordination.
- **Evaluation of outcomes** at the individual as well as system level so we are able to learn more about what treatment approaches work best in our community. The Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research at UWM is conducting the evaluation.
- **Collaborative program management** involves treatment providers, advocates, and Milwaukee County in shared decision-making about the program's implementation and ongoing improvement.

SYSTEM CORE VALUES

The new system is based on several core values. All of the treatment providers and support services organizations involved in the project have agreed to these core values.

1. Consumer needs, preferences and choice drive the system.
2. Best practices in AODA treatment for women and families are the foundation.
3. Access must be visible, community-based and accessible.
4. Women and families must be able to access and receive treatment based on needs, strengths and readiness irrespective of payment source.
5. Multi-faceted needs and strengths require a wraparound approach that is also sensitive to gender and cultural issues.
6. A seamless delivery system regularly involves all stakeholders in results-focused collaboration with an empowered family at the center.
7. Long-term family health and wellbeing require economic stability.
8. Milwaukee County treatment providers hold themselves to high standards and support funding decisions that reflect individual program performance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the program, contact Program Manager Gena de Sousa, Milwaukee County Department of Human Services, at 257-6920.